

left the staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure after more than 14 years of service as the Democratic Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. I had the privilege of working with Jennifer throughout her entire time with the Committee, but most closely since 2015 when I took over as Ranking Member.

Jennifer was born in New Britain, Connecticut, but later moved with her family to the Washington Metro area. For Jennifer, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure was more than just a place to work; it was a second family. Her father, Sante Esposito, served as the Democratic Chief Counsel to the Committee from 1981 to 1998. Through both her father and mother, Jennifer learned the importance of public service at a young age.

As a student at Pennsylvania State University, Jennifer got her first real experience in government interning in Senator Arlen Specter's Harrisburg office. After graduation, she worked for the National Federation of Independent Business and the American Iron and Steel Institute before spending seven years working for transportation labor—first with the Transportation Trades Department and then the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

She left the Teamsters in 2004 to join the Democratic staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she developed unrivaled expertise in issues surrounding the railroad industry and its employees, the safety and security of transporting hazardous materials, and the safety of oil and gas pipelines.

Jennifer is a passionate and tireless advocate for transportation safety, which is why it is extremely fitting that Jennifer left the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to become a Board Member at the National Transportation Safety Board. During her tenure as Staff Director, Jennifer guided major pieces of rail, pipeline, and hazmat safety legislation through the legislative process, including: the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Specials Programs Improvement Act of 2004; the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users; the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006; the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008; the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA); the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011; and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) in 2015. Throughout her tenure on the Committee, she was an unwavering defender of the Nation's passenger railroad, Amtrak, and the need for swift implementation of positive train control.

When she is not at work trying to improve the safety of our transportation system, Jennifer spends her time running and training for marathons and triathlons. She is also a devoted mother who spends many weekends traveling with her daughter Alexandra (Lexi) to Irish dance competitions across the country.

I want to thank Jennifer for her many years of service to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. We will miss her, but look forward to working with her in her new role at the NTSB. I wish Jennifer, her husband Mike, and daughter Lexi all the best in the years to come.

## TRIBUTE TO JOYCE AND BOB COOPER

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Joyce and Bob Cooper, of Creston, Iowa for being selected as Union County's 2018 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Both Joyce and Bob are community minded, recognizing the needs in their county and making time to address the challenges. Both 4-H members themselves, they gave their time as adults to leading clubs in Union County. Bob was a co-leader for the Grant Toppers 4-H club, taking the boys on camping and fishing trips many times. Joyce was a co-leader for the Jolly Jills 4-H club and taught many young ladies how to sew, cook, can, and garden. Their five children also showed dairy cattle and horses. Bob and Joyce served on the Union County Fair Board for 14 years and served on the dairy committee for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Joyce and Bob demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. Their efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent them, and Iowans like them, in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Joyce and Bob Cooper for their award and wish them nothing but continued success.

## HONORABLE CARL J. CHARACTER

### HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation on this 4th day of September 2018:

Whereas, Judge Carl J. Character departed this life August 24, 2018, and was funeralized September 1, 2018 at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio; and

Whereas, Judge Character was appointed the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in 1987 by former Ohio Governor Richard Celeste, was elected to the bench in 1990 and retired in 1997; and

Whereas, Judge Character's distinguished service on the bench was typified by his philosophy that everyone appearing before him deserved his time and full attention while receiving a fair hearing or trial; and

Whereas, Judge Character, prior to serving on the bench, practiced law with former Congressman Louis Stokes and former Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes, representing welfare recipients, Fortune 500 companies, criminal defendants and clients who simply needed a will or help with a workers' compensation claim; and

Whereas, Judge Character was a past president of the National Bar Association, member of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and the Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness, board member of many organizations, including University Hospitals and the

Cleveland Bar Association, and former Vice President of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association; and

Whereas, Judge Character was a veteran of the United States Army, having served in Korea and Japan during the Korean War; and

Whereas, Judge Character was a product of Cleveland Public Schools, graduating from Glenville High School, and received his bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and law degree from the University of Michigan; and

Whereas, Judge Character was a member Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and

Whereas, Judge Character is survived by his wife, Dee Ann, two daughters, Dea L. Character and Darla Character-Johnson, eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, and leaves a legacy of legal and judicial excellence, committed community service and the respect of his peers;

*Resolved*, on behalf of the residents of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, we acknowledge, salute and celebrate the life of The Honorable Carl J. Character, his contributions to Northeastern Ohio this 4th Day of September 2018, and in honor of his service to Northeast Ohio and our country.

## HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GEORGE L. MURRAY, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray, U.S. Army (Retired).

CSM (Ret) George Murray was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Army on April 17, 1939 out of the Civilian Conservation Corps. He was assigned to Company A, 1st Separate Chemical Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii where he was serving on December 7, 1941 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He returned to Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, in 1942 to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS). After graduation he was assigned to Camp Sibert, Alabama. In August 1944, he joined C Company of the 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion in France and served with the battalion for the remainder of World War II.

From the end of the War to 1951, he served in various assignments in CONUS, including the Deseret Chemical Center, UT, the 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash., and the 11th Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky. In 1949 he reverted back to the enlisted rank of Master Sergeant. He served as First Sergeant and instructor in the Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) School in Japan from November 1951 to July 1954. Afterwards, he returned to CONUS and served at Fort Dix, N.J., as Committee Chief of the CBR School. He was promoted to Sergeant Major on April 8, 1959 and served as Sergeant Major for the 100th Chemical Group and for the U.S. Army Chemical Corps Training Command from July 1960 to July 1964, he served at Headquarters Chemical Sections in Orleans, France and Heidelberg, Germany. He returned to Fort McClellan, Ala., in August 1964 and again served as Sergeant Major of